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News Release

Benefits of Animal Science Highlighted at Welsh Assembly Reception

The importance of investing in animal science has been stressed by Professor Jamie Newbold, President of the British Society of Animal Science (BSAS).

Speaking at a reception at The Welsh Assembly in Cardiff on Tuesday 25 November he showcased examples of the contribution that animal science has made in translating developments in biological science into practical benefits for animals, producers, consumers and the environment. He stressed how new research was needed to meet challenges like sustaining the rural economy, feeding a growing world population and adapting to global climate change.

He also pointed out that animal science is under threat in Wales. Over the last decade government funding through Defra, from the red meat levy and from the milk levy has fallen significantly.

Professor Newbold from Aberystwyth University said "British animal science has achieved much and given better investment can provide Wales with a great deal more. Global climate change is expected to reduce food production in many parts of the world – a particularly serious issue as the global human population grows, and the expected doubling of global demand for livestock products by 2050".

“Agricultural productivity in Northern Europe is however expected to be less affected by climate change and should increase the comparative advantage for livestock industries that produce high quality products from land unsuitable for growing human food directly. This gives a great commercial opportunity in the medium term but we need to ensure we still have both the industry and science capability to rise to this challenge”.

The reception for policymakers and industry stakeholders was organised by BSAS and hosted by The Minister for Rural Affairs, Elin Jones. Some 20 top UK scientists met with members of the Assembly, Welsh MPs and representatives from the Welsh Agricultural & Food industry and organisations concerned with the environment.

BSAS is especially keen to help provide independent information and advice to help policymakers and those involved in decision making achieve 'best fit' solutions for the economy, environment and social life of Wales. This BSAS 'road show' to raise the profile of animal science now moves on to Northern Ireland having already visited the Parliaments in Edinburgh and London, as well as Cardiff.

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Notes : 1. The British Society of Animal Science works to advance the understanding of animal sciences and to promote their integration into economic and ethical systems. It is committed to improving the productivity and welfare of farm animals and the quality and safety of food, whilst protecting the environment. The BSAS has members from research, education, advisory work, industry and farming backgrounds.

2. Examples of the successes achieved by animal science are attached.

For more information contact

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